

REMARKS/ARGUMENT

In preparing the application for payment of the Issue Fee, it was discovered that a number of minor informalities in the claims had not been corrected. Some of these were typographical or grammatical errors, and some were in the nature of missing antecedent support for recited limitations or inconsistencies between the designation of elements in the claims and specification. On closer inspection, it was also noted that there were editing errors of a more significant nature in some of the claims. As the application had been allowed on the first Office Action, there had been no practical opportunity to correct these errors.

Corrections to the claims have been made herein to the extent deemed appropriate within the scope of 37 C.F.R. 1.312. For example, most omissions of adequate antecedent support for a claim limitation have been corrected by changing dependency (e.g., as in claim 18). In other instances, the correction was made by changing "the" to --a-- or to --an-- (as in claim 87). In a few instances, a missing antecedent has been explicitly stated (as in claim 24). Those claims requiring more than the trivial corrections mentioned above have been canceled without disclaimer, and without prejudice to re-presentation in a continuing application. As the corrections do not introduce new matter, and do not affect the scope of the claims in any respect, it is respectfully submitted that entry of these amendment under 37 C.F.R. 1.312 is proper, and should be permitted.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Issue Fee, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.

Lawrence A Hoffman

Name of applicant, assignee or
Registered Representative

Lawrence A Hoffman

Signature

September 1, 2006

Date of Signature

LAH:lac

Respectfully submitted,

Lawrence A Hoffman

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